

# THE MENACE

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## The League of Nations

Pope Benedict favors the League of Nations—that is, the kind of a League of Nations he desires and one in which he may have "some voice."

His organ, the *Osservatore Romano* of Rome, declares as much in an inspired article printed March 12. His arrival at that conclusion has close connection with what happened at Berne, Switzerland, the day before.

On March 11 the International League of Nations Societies, sitting at Berne, adopted a resolution which favors giving the pope at least some voice in the councils of that League. If the pope can so much as participate in creation of the League and dictation of its constitution, he is for it.

He is for that sort of thing because it is his only hope to inject papal influence into post-bellum international affairs. Italy's uncompromising position definitely and conclusively shuts him and his direct representatives out of the Versailles peace conference. His remaining hope, and the present plan of Jesuit diplomacy, is to separate all consideration of the Society of Nations from the peace conference in which he cannot participate, and have the League of Nations set up at another international meeting in which he can take part. And that is about what one would expect from one so clever in diplomacy and so hungry for political power.

How he or his agents managed to get that resolution through the meeting at Berne would prove interesting if we could get at the facts. It was probably provided for in advance, and put over while papal agents were alert and the genuine friends of a practical organization were off their guard.

Swiss delegates called attention to the fact that if one religious system were admitted to the League, Buddhism and others should be given like representation; but consistency is never permitted to interfere with what popery can effect for its own aggrandizement.

In the meantime pope-controlled politicians everywhere are clamoring for an early peace and for deferring all consideration of the League to a later date. Whether they know it or not, they are thereby furthering papal plans to get into international affairs by one door when shut out of another.

Few, if any, dare to declare themselves unqualifiedly against some kind of a league. The war has taught its need, and a war-weary world has learned its not-to-be-forgotten lesson. The conflict of opinion is over whether the peace delegates, assembled at Versailles, shall perfect their plans for permanent peace or whether they shall leave part of those plans to the bickering of discredited influences now shut out but who hope by delay to get in.

President Wilson knows why the League of Nations should be effected by the same body that establishes peace. Peace is one thing, and the means of making it permanent is another thing—one as desirable as the other. The two are properly the care and work of one body, because the proposed society of nations is the only conceivable guarantee that any kind of peace can last. The one thing more acceptable than peace is permanent peace. President Wilson and patriotic statesmen of the Allied Nations are trying to achieve the latter.

And no matter what pretence Pope Benedict may make of being the originator of the idea, the fact remains that the American executive is the real originator and consistent supporter of the plan which Benedict would now like to modify to suit his convenience.

## Jesuit Priest Lectures on Popery

That noisy Jesuit bigot, Walter Drum, announces that he will give a series of lectures in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, during lent, wherein he will compare and contrast the Roman Catholic and Protestant faiths. This announcement suggests two observations.

The first is that the present enthroned archbishop of New York and custodian of St. Patrick's Cathedral received from the president of the Free Press Defense League last October a strong but courteous and gentlemanly letter inviting him to participate, either personally or by some one of his selection for that purpose, in a thorough and exhaustive joint discussion of the issues between the Roman and Protestant faiths. He totally ignored the letter. He could not answer it.

To accept the courteous invitation meant the annihilation of Romanism in the United States. To decline it was but little better. To hide out was his safest course, and that is the course he took. Any other would spell the shipwreck of popery in the New World, and he knew it. If he had the courage of his pretensions, instead of letting a Jesuit priest deceive his people further by *ex parte* lectures, he would have selected that Jesuit priest or an abler one, if there were any abler, to face the issue in a joint discussion that would give them all the law and all the facts bearing on the subject. The Roman hierarchy is an aggregation of moral cowards and hypocrites, and those traits are specially peculiar to the higher prelates.

The other observation is that Priest Drum can lecture on Protestantism with perfect safety. No Protestant counterpart of the Knights of Columbus will throw brick bats through the windows of the cathedral, or rush down its aisles with a flourish of deadly weapons and yelling for blood. Protestants are civilized. They favor freedom of speech. They are willing for Walter Drum or any other papal drum to make all the noise he pleases because Protestants are abundantly able to answer all any papist can say.

## HOLY FATHER HORRIFIED

Fears Palestine May Be Given to Jews—Hasn't Enough Money in Vats and Cans of the Vatican to Prevent—Protestant and Jewish Propaganda in Holy Land Intolerable to Monarch of Roman Catholic Cult

Here is something from the news columns of the New York World that should prove as illuminating as it is amusing to observing readers. It is from Beatrice Baskerville, staff correspondent of the World at Rome, and is as full of smiles as the usual vatican-dope is full of gloomy ponderosity. Comment would be superfluous.

ROME, March 11.—The pope's allocution at today's secret consistory caused a certain surprise. Vatican circles, generally well-informed, foretold a papal statement regarding the American scheme of union of the Christian churches, whereas the allocution was devoted to the position of the oriental church, the keynotes being anxiety for Palestine's future and also a solemn indictment of Protestant and Jewish propaganda there, which the holy father declared "intolerable."

The pope did not hide his alarm lest the peace conference decide to consign the holy place, Jerusalem, to the Jew.

"It would certainly be bitter grief for us and all Christians if unbelievers in Palestine were placed in a better and more privileged position than we, and far more if those sacred monuments to the Christian religion were consigned to non-Christians," he said.

The pope spoke with unusual emphasis, which deeply impressed his audience. The pope stated that he would do all possible to counteract the Jewish and also the Protestant propaganda carried on by those "who, furnished with unlimited wealth, abuse the innumerable miseries which the ruins of the war caused to Palestine, to disseminate their doctrines in those very places where the Saviour gave the world eternal salvation at the price of His blood."

The holy father implied that the position of Palestine called for greater sacrifices, because the vatican treasury's "limited means alone prevent our spending more on relief and the schools of Palestine."

## Poor Old Aunty Dote

So long as that freak of papistic journalism, the *Antidote*, was perpetrated by Father Campbell it was about as hilarious and cheerful a joke as its erratic editor. There was always fun in THE MENACE sanctum when Daddy Campbell's budget of blessed bunc blew in from far-off Texas.

But alas and alack! The good old times are gone. The only and original Campbell has deserted the menagerie. Texas is dry, and the pedicled *Antidote* yet drier.

It announces as editors "The Friars of the Atonement," and, if they fry the atonement as zealously as they strive to roast THE MENACE there must be several degrees difference of temperature in the Texas climate.

The *Antidote* used to be something of a smile even when most indignant and abusive, but it is now a prolonged scream. The change is something like that which occurs to a young maid when she passes irrevocably to the status of an old maid.

Poor old Aunty Dote has become quarrelsome and querulous. Her garrulous "Talks with Readers of THE MENACE" are not bad advertising for this paper; but they are marred with such shrieks as "Beware the wolves in sheep's clothing" and "The Bolsheviks! I let you if you don't watch out."

The old lady has a fancy that THE MENACE is an organ of Bolshevism, and that the two of them are about to do something awful to somebody somewhere if somehow the blessed Benedict and his bum clergy don't apply the *Antidote* and counteract the "pisen."

We don't know much about this Bolshevik bogey; but, if it is any worse than the friars' Roman Catholic remedy, we shall do our best to avoid catching it. Aunty Dote in her dotage is also convinced that THE MENACE is "More or less in league with the I. W. W." because this paper is in sympathy with the anti-clericals in Portugal.

## Pope Pleads for the Hun

An *Associated Press* dispatch from Rome under date of March 11 says the pope has addressed to the peace conference an appeal for leniency towards Germany. The dispatch sums up his appeal in these words:

It is understood that the pontiff states that the vatican possesses reliable information that the situation in Germany, socially and economically, is very grave, and that he fears the spread of bolshevism with such rapidity that it might result in the establishment of a bolshevik state, which in turn might become allied with bolshevik Russia. He is reported to have said that he feels that the only way to avoid such an eventuality is a speedy peace—A PEACE, HE SAYS, WHICH WILL NOT HUMILIATE THE GERMAN PEOPLE.

Had his ambition to sit in the peace conference been gratified it can easily be seen with what diligence he would have shielded his late allies from civil and penal justice at the hands of the triumphant democracies. The Hun, the Irish and the Turk would feel more than safe in his hands. They would know they were in the house of their father and in the hands of their fellow-conspirator.

So anxious was he to appear as their advocate and so disappointed when the triumph of democracy excluded him from that role that the diocesan organ of one of his enthroned cardinals in this country recently quoted with approval the declaration that he would be unwilling to sit in the conference where outraged but triumphant peoples were passing sentence on the archcriminals who sought to blot liberty and civilization from the earth.

His exclusion from the conference was a conspicuous triumph of justice. He should also be excluded from any future meddling in the politics of the world. His impudent pretension to a place among the nations should be forever terminated and justly rebuked and punished. Substantially the same sentence should be pronounced against him as against the other autocrats with whom he conspired to subjugate all free peoples. Popery is strictly a mediæval despotism, and the world war is the final struggle in the death of the Middle Ages and birth of the modern world.

## Y. M. C. A. Entertains Overseas Soldiers

In addition to their care for the physical comfort and moral welfare of our troops overseas, according to a message cabled to the war department March 12 by General Pershing, the Y. M. C. A. is providing high-class and edifying entertainment for the boys. Under arrangements made by this great nonsectarian philanthropic organization, five hundred entertainment companies and many professional troupes are touring the camps.

This work for the first six months of the current year has been provided at a cost of \$1,250,000. The American people will commend this excellent service. Every boy now detained overseas is the hero and idol of some anxious and patriotic home. These boys are entitled to every comfort and every legitimate enjoyment that can be provided.

Parents and friends of these boys prefer this service to the hundreds of millions of cigarettes which the Knights of Columbus boast of having showered upon the soldiers at a cost of millions of dollars to destroy their physical and moral health and sap the foundations of their manhood. But such is the perfectly normal contrast between the substantial and edifying work being done in quiet modesty by the Y. M. C. A. and the noisy exploitation of the Roman Catholic sectarian propagandists.

The clean nonsectarian organization practices the injunction of the Lord to work quietly without letting the left hand know what benevolences the right hand is doing. No diocesan organs of enthroned prelates advertise the work of the Y. M. C. A. Their work needs no such advertisement. It speaks for itself. The grateful soldiers know its value. Their letters to mothers and wives and sweethearts will commend this work far beyond the power of the blatant sectarian press of Irish cardinals and archbishops. It is impossible to deceive all the people all the time.

## Romanizing Southern Negroes

One phase of Roman Catholic political aggression in this country concerns especially the southern people. That is the effort being made to round up the colored population of the southern states for the control of elections. The Roman press as well as common observation discloses how diligently this work is being pushed.

The pernicious effects are already noticeable in the high per cent of illiteracy in southern states with large colored populations. By extending its degrading and fraudulent system of parochial schools into the cities of the South the papal hierarchy is able to keep negro children out of the public schools and thus fasten upon them permanently the curse of ignorance and superstition that has so blighted all Roman Catholic lands.

The race question in the South is serious enough when handled honestly, but if the still more difficult and far-reaching papal question is to be added to it, the situation will be grave indeed. If enthroned Roman bishops are to be placed in all southern cities and each surrounded by scores or hundreds of colored priests, and each priest given control of a vast parish of colored people kept in subservient ignorance by means of parochial schools, the most difficult and trying political issue they have ever faced will confront the people of the sunny South.

The group of Roman bishops who organized themselves into what they called the National Catholic War Council will spare no pains to fasten the papal autocracy upon every community they can possibly reach. They announce their intention to organize their priests and politicians into a militant corps to instruct both aliens and citizens in the Roman Catholic brand of citizenship. Recent numbers of the papal press devote many columns to their plans to harness the colored voters of Norfolk, Virginia, to their political machine. The South would do well to keep an eye on this movement.

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